



Citizen Corps Local Mission Statement

The goal is CITIZEN PREPAREDNESS. The Local Citizen Corps Council brings together community leaders to coordinate the involvement of community members in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery. This coordination is in consideration of the Local Emergency Operation Plan, compliments existing organizational structures and partners with the Nebraska Citizen Corps Council for Statewide initiatives.

The council works to enhance the “reach” of professional emergency responders to private citizens with information, education, and participation in disaster preparedness. The council provides an updated roster of community volunteer commitments and their local points of contact to the local emergency manager and Nebraska Citizen Corps Council on an annual basis.

County/Local Council Objectives

The council works to provide an integrated public preparedness plan for its geographic area. The council acts as an “organizing entity” for private and public organizations. The council will develop or participate in a public relations plan to promote preparedness information, programs, and activities across the community.

Structure of the Council

The council reports to the local emergency manager and can be comprised of a Steering committee and task groups. The Council does not replace existing structures for disaster response but serves as a forum for response groups to work together in disaster response and emergency preparedness. Consequently, the steering committee receives guidance from local organizational resources in setting annual goals and focus for community outreach and preparedness trainings for volunteers. The steering committee may add and remove task groups as necessary.

Steering Committee

Citizen Corps Council direction is led by a steering committee composed of representatives or liaisons from the Health Department, Fire Department, Police Department, Sheriff’s Department, Game and Parks etc. The official program partners are Neighbor Hood Watch- NBW, Volunteers in Police Service (most likely a different name in your area), CERT-Community Emergency Response Team, Fire Corps, and Medical Reserve Corps. The Steering committee should be cognizant of Federal and State annual preparedness goals and should translate these goals to local action.

Task Groups

Task groups such as: Strategic Planning for community outreach, surveying, and disaster response (including vulnerable population-outreach); Volunteer Organization for mass clinics, sheltering, exercising and recovery response; Public Education for Emergency Preparedness; and management of community resources are a way to organize participating organizations into complementary roles and responsibilities.

Task Groups and Liaison Roles

A. Volunteer Organization

Potential Members/Leaders Responsibilities

- Mass clinics- Liaison with Health Department and Medical Reserve Corps
- Sheltering- Organization of local resources as Shelters and Shelter volunteers
- Exercising- participation of trained volunteer responders CERT, VIPS, MRC
- Recovery Response- organized and led by VOAD groups
- Spontaneous Volunteers- Managed by identified local entity

Sample Task Group Activities:

1. Support current programs
 - a. Identify current, related volunteer programs and establish mechanism for coordination.
 - b. Identify needs and develop plan for support for existing programs
 - c. Develop plan to publicize existing programs and recruit volunteers
2. Develop plans and programs to make effective use of volunteers for event based assistance.
 - a. Identify categories of needs (language, physical barriers)
 - b. Identify organizations and methods for effective use of volunteers
 - c. Develop mechanism for matching volunteers skills and connecting volunteers with organizations of programs developed for event based volunteers (HD-mass clinics, VOAD-canteen, shelter, clean-up, etc)
3. Develop messages for Public Relations.

B. Public Education

Potential Members/Leaders Responsibilities

- Public Relations- Liaison with Media; Radio, Print, local newsletters
- Education- Public and Private representatives liaison with schools
- Special Needs- Liaison with Elderly, disabled, non-English speaking groups
- Youth/Drama/Speakers- Liaison with local groups for creative outreach

Sample Task Group Activities:

1. Research appropriate Education Components
 - a. Develop standard messages for use in disasters and in presentations
 - b. Review/assist in alert systems.
2. Identify/develop effective ways to disseminate emergency information
 - a. Recruit speakers bureau of volunteers to deliver messages
 - b. Review/develop communications systems to instruct public during emergency.
3. Ensure communications meet community members with special needs.
 - a. recruit participation of special needs population in plan development

C. Resource Management

Potential Members/Leaders Responsibilities

Communications- Contacts with Ham Radio Operators, manage contact info

Database- Council members and roles, Volunteer lists, and local resources

Facility Management- Resource management for in-kind donations.

Sample Task Group Activities:

1. Identify community assets related to emergency mitigation, response and recovery.
 - a. Identify and work with organizations managing assets for response.
 - b. Determine standards for donated materials
 - c. Determine standards for distribution and need assessment
 - d. Identify and evaluate available resources.
2. Develop systems to ensure full and effective use of community resources.
 - a. Develop or identify local method for receiving, cataloging, storing, and distributing materials. Utilize affiliates structures.
 - b. Develop plans/methods for organizational partnerships to share or distribute resources or both.
3. Develop messages for Public Relations to inform public about how to make effective donations, volunteer roles needed in resource management, and how to access needed resources.